

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9, 11-15, 18, and 26-28 are pending in the application, with 1, 4, 7, 11, 12, and 18 being the independent claims. Claim 10 is sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

At the outset, Applicants note with great appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 7-9 in the February 25, 2003 Office Action. Further, it is noted that no specific ground of rejection has been applied against claim 18. Applicants cannot address the references relative to this claim. It is respectfully requested that, if the Examiner does not believe that the foregoing amendments are sufficient to place this application in condition for allowance, he issue a new Office Action stating the specific ground of rejection to be applied against claim 18.

Objection to the Title

Examiner objected to the title of the Application as being "not descriptive." In response to this objection, Applicants propose to amend the title to "Method and Apparatus for Timing Correction in Communications Systems." Applicants respectfully

submit that the amended title is sufficiently descriptive and complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.72.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action dated February 25, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Scott, et al., U.S. Patent 6,388,997 [hereinafter Scott]. Applicants note that the Examiner included claim 7 in the statement of this rejection on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicants believe that the inclusion of claim 7 was a typographical error. The Examiner on page 6 of the Office Action states "Claims 7-9 are allowed over prior art." In addition, the Office Action summary indicates that claims 7-9 are allowed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under Scott does not apply to claim 7 and claim 7 stands allowed. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to claims 1-5.

In rejecting claim 1 and 4, the Examiner argues that Scott discloses:

a method for timing adjustment control for efficient time division duplex communications, a method of receiving a burst transmission from a transceiver in a time slot and calculating a timing correction value to synchronize the transmission timing with the reference and transmitting the said correction value to the transceiver.

In rejecting claim 4, the Examiner further argues that Scott also discloses "a method where the transceiver sends the subsequent transmissions according to the timing correction value."

Applicants submit that Scott does not teach or suggest every feature recited in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 4. As recited in claims 1 and 4, Applicants'

invention requires a burst transmission "including a time slot indication indicating a time slot within which the burst was transmitted." The use of a time slot indication allows the transceiver receiving the burst transmission to calculate a timing error by comparing the time at which the burst is actually received with the correct timing for the indicated time slot (Specification, page 12, line 28 - page 13, line 18).

In contrast, Scott describes a complex arrangement for pairing time slots in which data are received and transmitted by each transceiver. In Scott, the base station must have knowledge of this time slot allocation protocol in order to determine a timing offset correction. Applicants' invention does not depend on transceivers having prior knowledge of a specific protocol in order to calculate a timing offset. Applicants' use of a time slot indication removes the need for this detailed knowledge.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Scott does not disclose or teach the burst transmission including a time slot indication as recited in Applicants' claims 1 or 4. The rejection of claims 1 and 4 and their respective dependent claims 2-3 and 5-6 as allegedly being anticipated by under pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully traversed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott in view of Kronz, et al, WO 9900931 [hereinafter Kronz]. Claim 10 has been canceled by the above amendment. Therefore,

the rejection as to claim 10 has been rendered moot. Applicants respectfully transverse this ground of rejection with respect to claim 6.

Claim 6 depends from independent claim 4. The differences between the subject matter claimed in claim 4 and the disclosure of Scott have been discussed above. Kronz adds nothing to Scott that overcomes the deficiencies of Scott relative to the herein claimed invention. For at least these reasons, claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Scott and Kronz. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weigand, U.S. Patent 6,400,734 [hereinafter Weigand] in view of Pound, U.S. Patent 5,278,827 [hereinafter Pound]. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner in rejecting claims 11 and 12 states that although Weigand does not disclose the use of a second synchronizing sequence following the data sequence, Pound teaches a method of using a second synchronizing sequence and therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Pound and Weigand to achieve Applicants' invention.

As recited in independent claims 11 and 12, Applicants' invention requires transmission of a synchronisation sequence both before and after a data field in a data burst. Thus, even if the beginning or end of the burst overlaps with another transmitted burst, it may still be possible to read the data content of the burst correctly.

Weigand describes the transmission of a synchronisation sequence in a TDMA signal at the beginning of a data burst. As the Examiner correctly points out, Weigand

does not describe the transmission of a synchronisation sequence at the end of a data burst. Pound describes the transmission of synchronizing packets in an ISDN system. Pound does not describe transmitting more than one synchronisation sequence in a single data burst, as recited in claims 11 and 12. Rather, the synchronisation packets are described as being sent in separate bursts. As such, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to combine Weigand with Pound thereby producing Applicants' invention. Neither Weigand nor Pound disclose or suggest the use of a second synchronisation packet within a single data burst as recited in claims 11 and 12. Since both Weigand and Pound fail to disclose or suggest at least the foregoing limitations of the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention. In addition, based on the above discussion, Applicants submit that even if the Examiner was to combine Weigand and Pound, Applicants' invention does not result.

Further, Applicants submit that the teachings of Weigand and Pound are entirely incompatible. Pound teaches ISDN systems which provide basically error free channels and the length of the data is variable. Consequently, there is no time correlation between the start and stop sequences and the sequences cannot be used to assist timing acquisition.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that these references cannot be combined. The rejections of claims 11 and 12 and their respective dependent claims 13-15 and 26-28 as allegedly being obvious under §103(a) over Weigand in view of Pound are respectfully traversed.

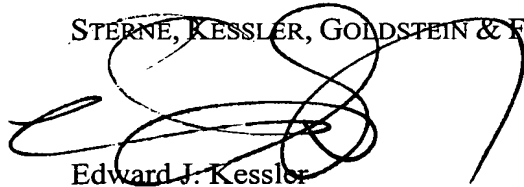
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Kessler', is written over the printed name and title.

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